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Approved For Release 2003/08/20 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000200010075-1

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ER 9-3018

30 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Luncheon with Congressman Dawson of Illinois

1. Mr. Dawson is scheduled to have lunch with the Director and other Agency officials at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 2. A proposed attendance list is contained in paragraph 4, a proposed agenda in paragraph 5.

2. Mr. Dawson, a Democrat from Chicago, is Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations. He has been a member of Congress since 1942. The Government Operations Committee was formerly known as the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, and it was this Committee which considered and sponsored the National Security Act of 1947, after a jurisdictional wrangle with the Armed Services Committee. Mr. Dawson recently added CIA to the list of agencies responsive to his Subcommittee on International Operations, chaired by Porter Hardy.

3. Mr. Dawson had lunch with the Director two years ago, and at the time showed a particular interest in how we accounted for our funds, both vouchered and unvouchered. Colonel White explained the situation, and we believe Mr. Dawson was favorably impressed. We recently made an arrangement which permitted his Committee to report our inventory on real and personal property holdings within the overall government totals, which pleased him. Mr. Dawson is very much interested in Africa, and in negro affairs in this country.

4. Subject to the Director's approval, I have tentatively notified the following people to attend the luncheon: Dr. Kent for the DD/I (Amory has a prior commitment), Colonel White, Mr. Houston, [redacted] and myself. General Cabell has been invited to attend. I invited Mr. Wisner and/or Mr. Helms. They are both tied up, and neither will plan to attend unless the Director feels it particularly important that one of them do so.

DOCUMENT NO. 74
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C 2011
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2011
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 120291 REVIEWER: [redacted]

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5. I suggest that the following matters be considered for discussion:

a. World situation, with emphasis on the Middle East and Africa. In this connection, the Director will recall that Mr. Hardy told him that there was a general feeling on the Hill that there was an intelligence failure in the events of last October and November. It would be interesting to hear Mr. Dawson's views, and possibly to get his advice on how our friends in Congress might help to rebut false stories of this kind.

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b. CIA controls over the expenditures of funds. Colonel White will be prepared to discuss this.

c. Agency policy on the disclosure of information to Congressmen and Congressional committees. Our record is good on this, and it may be worthwhile to emphasize that we do not withhold information from appropriate congressmen. Mr. Dawson is evidently about to co-sponsor a bill with Congressman Moss and others to amend the basic statutes which permit Executive Departments to withhold non-security information from the public. Although the bill has not been introduced, we have seen a draft which contains exceptions which appear to cover our situation. Mr. Houston will be prepared to describe our basic authorities.

d. Organization and personnel. Colonel White and I feel that if Mr. Dawson is willing and able to stay, it might be well to offer him a post-luncheon briefing on this subject, with the big chart. If the Director cannot stay for this, we could set it up in one of the conference rooms.

e. Employment of negroes. There are a total of [redacted] negro employees in the Agency. [redacted] (61%) are in the GS grades. [redacted] of these are GS-11, which is the highest. The average grade is GS 4.4. [redacted] (39%) are on Wage Board pay scales. We have worked with the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy (set up under Executive Order 10590 on non discrimination) and to date we have had no discrimination grievance cases. Our record is decent, but not outstanding, and perhaps the Director will not want to specifically discuss the matter. Mr. Dawson did not raise it himself at the luncheon two years ago.

[redacted]

Norman S. Paul
Legislative Counsel

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